

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07

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LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 IOE-00 /093 W

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PASS OES FOR GANLEY, NSF FOR GRANGER, OSTP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO MEETING OF EXPERTS PREPARATORY TO THE
SECOND CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN REGION (MINESPOL
II)

REF: A) STATE 206589; B) USMISSION OECD PARIS 24335;
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1. SUMMARY. A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, APPOINTED BY
MEMBER STATES IN THE EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN REGION,
MET AT UNESCO HEADQUARTERS ON 15-17 SEPTEMBER 1976 AT
THE INVITATION OF THE DG UNESCO. SCI COUNS USMISSION
OECD PARTICIPATED FOR US PER REFTELS. PURPOSE OF THE
MEETING WAS TO PREPARE FOR SECOND CONFERENCE OF S & T
POLICY MINISTERS OF EUROPEAN REGION (MINESPOL II).
FINAL REPORT TO DG UNESCO JUST ISSUED BY SECRETARIAT
SENT BY AIR POUCH TO IO/UNESCO ATTENTION ARTHUR CORTE.
REPORT OUTLINES COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSIONS, SUGGESTED
FRAMEWORK OF PREPARATION BY DG OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA,
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OBSERVATIONS ON EVALUATION OF CONFERENCE, AND PROPOSALS

FOR ORGANIZATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF MINESPOL II TO TAKE PLACE IN FIRST HALF OF 1978. END SUMMARY.

2. TWENTY-ONE MEMBER STATES APPOINTED 29 EXPERTS WHO SERVED IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY. EIGHT UN, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SENT REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS. TOTAL ATTENDANCE WAS 37. CANADA WAS CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT.

3. PROFESSOR A. N. MATVEEV (USSR) FORMER ASSISTANT DG FOR SCIENCE AT UNESCO WAS A VIGOROUS AND ASSERTIVE CHAIRMAN. VICE-CHAIRMEN WERE DE HAAN (NETHERLANDS) AND MARCHAND (FRANCE). VAS-SOLTAN (HUNGARY) WAS ABLE RAPPORTEUR. GENERAL QUALITY OF DELEGATES WAS IMPRESSIVE AND DISCUSSION WAS LIVELY AND UNINHIBITED, BUT MEETING REVEALED VARYING DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM FOR MINESPOL II, WITH WE DELEGATES AT LOW END OF SCALE.

4. JOHN E. FOBES (US) DEPUTY DG UNESCO OPENED MEETING ON BEHALF OF DG M'BOW WITH FAMILIAR THEME OF GROWING SIGNIFICANCE OF S & T IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND ITS CENTRAL ROLE IN UNESCO RESPONSIBILITIES. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, MEETING HAS CHALLENGING TASK OF PREPARING FOR MINESPOL II. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN REGION AND OTHER WORLD REGIONS IN THE FIELD OF S & T, AND MENTIONED THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE AND THE 2ND U.N. CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO BE HELD IN 1979 OR 1980 (UNCSAT II).

5. ON FIRST MORNING, USDEL ASKED FOR STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE OF MINESPOL II. RESPONSE FROM SECRETARIAT WAS THAT GENERAL CONFERENCE APPROVED IT AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP HAD BUDGETED \$80,000 TO FUND IT. IRISH DEL FOLLOWED THIS LINE BY ASKING WHY MINESPOL II SHOULD BE HELD AT ALL. NETHERLANDS DEL ORGANIZED A LOOSE EC CAUCUS, WITH US INVITED TO PARTICIPATE, THAT AGREED TO LIMIT PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS TO PROBLEMS OF EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN REGION, AND TO RESIST DILUTION OF AGENDA WITH CSCE, UNCSAT II, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MYRIAD LDC-ORIENTED QUESTIONS. AS EXPECTED, SUCH QUESTIONS WERE RAISED REPEATEDLY BY EE (EXCLUDING USSR), NORDIC AND BELGIAN DELEGATES, BUT DID NOT RECEIVE UNDUE EMPHASIS IN FINAL REPORT OF MEETING.

6. SUBSEQUENTLY, US DEL REQUESTED FROM SECRETARIAT OR CHAIRMAN A SUMMARY OF LESSONS LEARNED AND GUIDANCE OBTAINABLE FROM MINESPOL I IN 1970. SINCE NO RESPONSE

WAS GIVEN, IT WAS LATER LEARNED FROM VARIOUS DELS FAMILIAR WITH MINESPOL I THAT IT IS WIDELY CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN A PRODIGIOUS OUTPOURING OF RHETORIC AND PLATITUDES, WITH LITTLE DISCERNABLE RESULT.

7. IN THE DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS, U.S.

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DEL, SUPPORTED BY OTHERS PRESSED FOR A SET OF CRITERIA BASED ON UTILITY AND RELEVANCE FOR SCIENCE MINISTERS, INSTEAD OF AN INCOHERENT AGGREGATE OF EVERYONE'S FAVORITE IDEAS. THE FINAL CRITERIA ADOPTED WERE NOT AS SHARPLY FOCUSSED AS COULD BE DESIRED, BUT THEY DID HELP TO EXCLUDE SEVERAL EXTRANEIOUS AND FAR OUT AGENDA ITEMS. THE THREE MAJOR IDEAS ADOPTED AS THEMES WERE: 1) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICIES 2) EMERGING ISSUES FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICIES AND C) PRESENT STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AMONG MEMBER STATES OF REGION AND PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE, IN CONFORMITY WITH DECISIONS OF PARTICI-

PANTS IN THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. THE LATTER WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY USSR AND EE DELS. SUBSEQUENTLY, EACH OF THE THEMES WAS FURTHER ELABORATED INTO SMALLER AND MORE MANAGEABLE ELEMENTS.

8. THERE WAS CONSENSUS TO HOLD MINESPOL II BEFORE JUNE 1978. THE ORIGINAL SECRETARIAT NOTE VISUALIZED AN EIGHT-DAY MEETING, WHICH WAS VIEWED AS HIGHLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNREALISTIC BY WE AND US DELS. THE PLAN FINALLY ADOPTED WAS FOR A FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE, THURSDAY TO MONDAY INCLUSIVE, WITH PREPARATION OF ISSUES IN ADVANCE BY ONE OR TWO COMMITTEES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WHO WOULD ALSO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED. DISCUSSION REVEALED THAT SEVERAL DELS WERE UNAWARE OF TIME PRESSURES AND POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF SCIENCE MINISTERIAL FUNCTIONS.

9. BULGARIA AND YUGOSLAVIA OFFERED TO HOST MINESPOL II, EACH AGREEING TO PAY THE EXCESS OF COSTS OVER THE FUNDING REQUIRED TO HOLD IT IN UNESCO HEADQUARTERS.

10. COMMENT: US DEL BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO EVALUATE THE USEFULNESS TO US OF MINESPOL II AND TO PARTICIPATE IN PREPARATORY ACTIVITY WITH DETERMINATION NOT TO REPEAT THE LARGELY FUTILE MINESPOL I EXERCISE OF 1970, AND TO AVOID A RITUAL DUPLICATION OF SIMILAR MEETINGS IN OTHER FORA. IT IS ALREADY CLEAR THAT CANADA AND SEVERAL MAJOR WE COUNTRIES ARE SKEPTICAL OF THE USEFULNESS, TIMELINESS, AND POLITICAL RELEVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE. THIS ATMOSPHERE COULD CHANGE IN THE NEXT YEAR AT WHICH TIME SERIOUS PREPARATORY WORK WILL BE ORGANIZED. NEW US SCI ATT. IN UNESCO MISSION SHOULD BE WELL PLACED THEN TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. KATZ

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